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UPHOLLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR

The YEAR, 1925.

Upholland,

May, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Upholland Urban District Council.

Gentlemen, .

I beg to present to you my report upon the Public
Health and the General Sanitary Condition of Upholland for
the year ending December 31st, 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) 4686.

Population (1921) 5610.

Population (1925) 5599.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

The Upholland Urban District is one which is distinctly
Rural in character. It is also very ancient. Many of the
houses are built of stone and several hundred years old, but in
my opinion they compare favourably with the houses which have
been erected since the War. The houses are mostly
more or less damp. The rainfall in this district is con-
siderable and strong winds are prevalent, consequently the walls
and roofs of the houses require to be very good indeed to keep
out the moisture. Rheumatism is therefore a preva-
lent disease and consequently Heart Diseases cause a considerable
number of the deaths.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) 1088.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 1158.

Rateable Value. £28,789-0-0d.

Sum represented by a penny rate. £70-0-0d.

Social Conditions and occupations:- The occupations of the
people are mainly Agricultural, Mining, Brickworks and Factory
(Cotton). There is nothing in these occupations which may
be considered prejudicial to health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
BIRTHS (Legitimate)	98.	56.	41.
(Illegitimate.)	1.	--	1.
DEATHS.	53.	33.	20.

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth- Rate.	Death- Rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 10 years 1915-1924.	23.25	13.5	0.88	85.5
1924.	20.3	9.8	0.17	78.
1925.	17.5	9.4	0.35	51.
Increase or de- crease in 1925 on 10 years average.	-5.75	-4.1	-0.53	-34.5
Previous Year	-2.8	-0.4	+0.18	-27.

Number of Women dying in or in)
consequence of Childbirth) Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year. Total 5. Legitimate 5.

This gives an Infantile Birth Rate of 51. per 1,000 births.

The causes of deaths are as follows:-

Enteric Fever	1.
Measles	1.
Influenza	1.
Encephalitis Lethargica	1.
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	2.
Tuberculosis (other)	1.
Cancer & Malignant Disease	5.
Cerebral Heamorrhage	5.
Heart Disease	10.
Arterio Sclerosis	2.
Pneumonia (all forms)	9.
Appendicitis	1.
Nephritis	2.
Congenital Debility (Malformation Premature birth)	3.
Violence (Not Suicide)	2.
Other defined diseases	7.
	53.

The people in this district obtain most of their Hospital Treatment from the Wigan Infirmary.

One feature of note in the statistics is a steady decline in the Birth Rate. The Death Rate and the Infantile Death Rate fortunately also keep low.

Influenza has been very prevalent during the colder seasons of the year. Several cases of Enteric Fever have occurred. Some of them have been attributed to insanitary privies, which have been dealt with. Outbreaks of Searlet Fever and Measles have occurred from time to time. The early closure of the Elementary Schools seems to me a useful way of checking the spread of Measles.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

For Smallpox.

The Council have a Canvas Tent.

For other Infectious Diseases For the treatment of Diphtheria and Typhoid the Council have an arrangement with the Wigan Corporation.

For other diseases accommodation has not been provided.

Ambulance facilities:-

- (a) For Infectious Cases. Wigan Corporation Ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases. Hand ambulance.

HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. Frederick Henry Browne, Salary £93.6.8. per annum. Part time.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. Archie Hunt. Salary inclusive. part time.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR. Harry Rigby. Salary inclusive. Part time.

HEALTH VISITOR. Nurse Taylor. Salary £50. per annum. also acts as District Nurse.

GENERAL NURSING:- A District Nurse is employed by the Local Nursing Association.

MIDWIVES:- The number on the Register is one.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE:- The adoptive Acts in force are as follows:-

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

~~Public Health Amendment Act~~

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

Public Health Act, 1925.

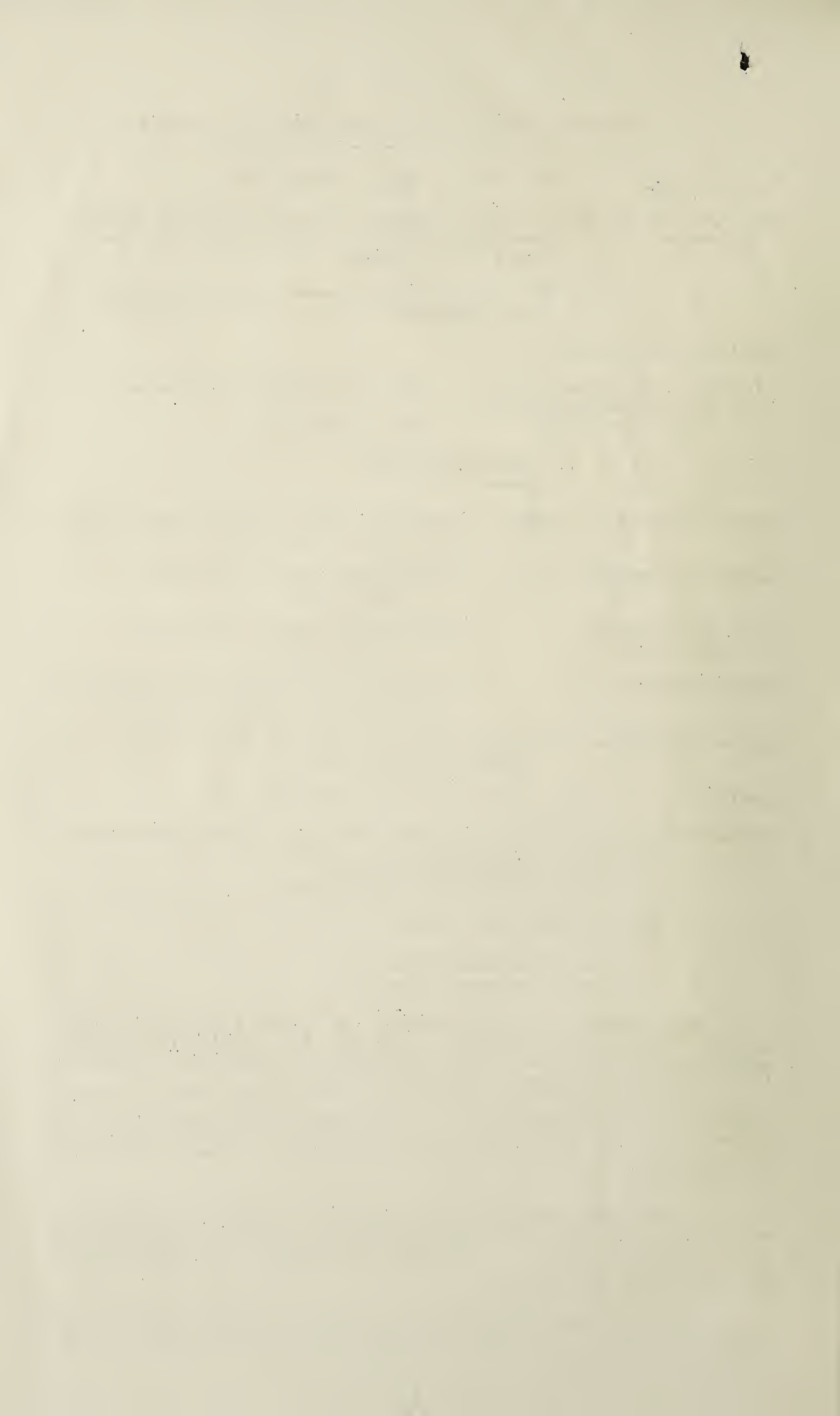
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY:- The District has a constant and good supply of water throughout the year. It has two sources (a) a deep well sunk into the coal measure sandstone in Upholland Village and (b) a disused underground quarry at Roby Mill.

The water from both sources is hard and not liable to mineral and other contamination. The supply from source (b) seems to be present in great abundance, that from source (a) is apt to decrease after a long period of dry weather. About 1070 houses are supplied.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:- The larger portion of the Council's Watershed is in the River Ribble Area and a small portion in that of the River Mersey. Samples are taken at the outfall works by the Inspector of the Ribble Joint Committee, acting under the Lancashire County Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:- The District is well supplied with sewers and drains, with the exception of one or two small areas, viz:- Roby Mill, Appley Bridge and Pimbo Lane.



CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:- The Closet accommodation at the end of 1925, was as follows:-

Privy middens	403.
No. of closets attached to these middens	657.
No. of Pail Closets.	25.
No. of dry ashpits.	129.
No. of Fresh Water Closets.	295.
No. of Ashbins for refuse.	151.

Conversions.	During 1925.	During five years 1921-1925.
No of Privy Closets. (To fresh W.C's	18	109.
(To Pails etc.	--	8.
No. of waste W.C's to Fresh W.C's.	1	1.
No. of Houses at which Movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed recepticals.	15.	138.

We have a definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets by gradually making conversions to the Water Carriage system. The Council contributing £5-0-0d. towards each conversion. Water Closets are provided to all new property where public sewers obtain.

SCAVENGING:- The privies of the district are cleaned and emptied by the Council's workmen. The refuse from dry ashpits and dustbins is deposited in suitable tips. Nightsoil is carted and utilized for agricultural purposes by the local farmers.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS:- The District is under the continual supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, whose duty it is to report to the Council all defects.

The number of Inspectios during 1925 were as follows:-

No. of premises visited.	92.		
Defects or nuisances.	No. discovered 92.	No. abated.	76.
No. of Notices served.	Informal. 77.	Statutory	15.
Legal Proceedings.	Nil.		

SCHOOLS:- The sanitary condition of the Schools is very good. Each school obtains its water from the district supply.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS:- The general housing conditions of the district are fairly good, and we estimate the housing shortage at about 30. Private enterprise is dealing with the shortage to some extent. The Council also propose to erect eight houses during 1926. We do not anticipate any important change in the population in the immediate future.

OVERCROWDING:- Six per cent. of the houses in the district are overcrowded.

FITNESS OF HOUSES:- The general standard of housing in the district is good, excepting the very old stone houses. The general character of the defects found upon inspection are insufficient window area, dampness, defective floors and roofs.

Many of the defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners of property, but the tenants of course in many cases are directly responsible.

GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS DEFECTS:- Under the Public

Health Acts inspections are made and the owners attention drawn to defects. Under the Housing Acts notices are served upon the owner, and failing his compliance the work has been done by the Council at his cost.

DIFFICULTY IN REMEDYING DEFECTS:- The procedure to remedy defects under the Public Health Acts is too cumbersome and therefore almost useless. Most of our improvements are effected under the Housing Acts. The general carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements with owners has been adopted in several cases with success.

UNHEALTHY AREAS:- The Council are at present dealing with a block of seven houses.


BYELAWS:- The Byelaws have been revised during the year, as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1925.

New houses erected during the year.	15.
With State Assistance under Housing Acts (by Local Authority)	13.
Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	36.
No. of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation)	1.
No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	17.
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs under Section 5 of the Housing Act 1925.	10.
No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
By owners.	1.
By Local Authority in default of owners	1.
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close.	1.
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied under Public Health Acts.	3.
No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
By owners.	3.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY:- The district being largely agricultural, dairies and cowsheds are regularly inspected and there are no complaints. The arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk are adequate and the milk is pure and wholesome in character. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders are observed in the district.



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MEAT:- The slaughter houses and meat supplied to the district are inspected from time to time. A public abattoir has not been established in the district. The slaughtering of cattle by the local butchers has been very limited during the year. The meat is largely obtained from the Birkenhead Abattoir. The local retail butchers have been instructed on the arrangements of the Meat Regulations, 1924, and we have every reason to believe they are being observed.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES:-

	In 1920.	In January 1925.	In December. 1925.
Numbers Registered	2	2	2
Number licensed	2	1	1

Totals	4	3	3.

Other Foods:- It has not been necessary to condemn any article of food. No case of poisoning has occurred.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally:- Scarlet Fever has been the most prevalent during the last few years and the contact at School in the early cases has been the cause of its dissemination.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin:- A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept at the Council Offices.

Encephalities Lethargica:- One case was notified on November 7th 1925, (Female 68 years of age).

Pathological & Bacteriological Examinations:- These examinations are carried out by the University of Manchester, Public Health Laboratory. 5 blood specimens were examined during 1925.

School Closure:- School Closure was necessary owing to the prevalence of Influenza at Crawford School from February 17th 1925 to February 27th 1925.

Disinfection:- The Method of disinfection after infectious disease is by fumigation and spraying with formalin.

13 Houses were disinfected during 1925. Articles of clothing requiring disinfection are treated at the Wigan Union Infirmary Billinge by their steam apparatus.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1925.

Disease	Total under years.									65 & over.
	cases.	1	1-2,	3-4,	5-10,	10-15,	15-20,	20-35,	35-45,	45-65,
Scarlet Fever	8		3	4	1					
Diphtheria (including (Membranes										
Croup.	2	1					1			
Enteric Fever including Para- typhoid).	5						4	1		
Encephalitis										
Lethargica	1									1
Erysipilas	5			1			1	2	1	
	21	1	3	5	1		6	3	1	1

Total cases removed to hospital and Total Deaths.

	removed to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria (including membranous Croup.)	1	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)		1.
Encephalitis Lethargica		1.
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Total.	1	2.
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TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality During 1925.

Age Periods. years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F.
0-1			1					
1-5			2				1	
10-15			1	1				
15-20			1					
25-35					1			
45-55		1						
55-65					1			
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Totals		1	5	1	2		1	
	1		6		2	2		1
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The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is 0 : 3.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five is carried out by the Local Nursing Association and the Council jointly, both contributing to the salary of a trained nurse.

We established three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the District a few years ago, but owing to the parents declining to attend them, they had to be discontinued. The Health Visitor is constantly in and out of the houses and gives valuable advice as to the feeding and bringing up of the children.

Free and Assisted supplies of milk are given subject to the conditions laid down in the Council's scheme and approved by the Ministry of Health. The applications are checked and considered by the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and myself.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F.H. Browne .

Medical Officer of Health.

